

To participate with Backyard Fruit Growers, please subscribe to our Newsletter.

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 Backyard Fruit Grower
5276 Steeville Road
Steeville PA 19310

BACKYARD FRUIT GROWERS

Are you interested in sharing with local people practical information and experienced advice about growing good fruit in your own backyard?

 *So many apples.....so little time*

WHO ARE WE?

Backyard Fruit Growers (BYFG) started in 1990 as a quarterly assembly for exchange of information among amateurs in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania who wanted to produce good fruit for the family, propagate heirloom varieties, try new varieties and flavors, and respect and improve the backyard environment.

Seasonal meetings now attract old-timers full of wisdom as well as first-timers full of wonder and eager to get started.

We have lively discussions, exchange opinions, and hold demonstrations of pruning, grafting, planting, spraying, and training.

We visit local backyard orchards and get together to taste our harvest in the fall. We try to pass on the knowledge and skills to the next generation.

BYFG is an informal and volunteer organization. We do not have a central library or a paid staff. Years of experience, knowledge and wisdom lie within the individuals who choose to participate and share with the group.

The best way to learn is to participate in events and workshops as announced, meet with other BYFG's, and ask a lot of questions. To keep in touch with schedules and events, subscribe to the quarterly newsletter.

For more information visit the BYFG website: <http://www.byfg.org/>

ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF BYFG EVENTS

January Winter Meeting

Featured are practical presentations for members of all skill levels. The annual preview of upcoming BYFG events precedes a guest speaker on a fruit related topic. Focus groups meet to discuss areas of interest such as getting started, fruit varieties, pollinating bees, pruning and training systems, and organic and conventional insect and disease controls. Held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. Bring a bag lunch and visit with other BYFG's. No charge for subscribers.

February Workshops

Hosted by the Heirloom Seed Project of the Landis Valley Museum (LVM), Lancaster. Basic information and training in areas such as planning a home orchard, rootstock selection, raising pollinating bees, fruit tree spraying, and hands-on pruning in the LVM apple orchard. Bring a bag lunch and visit with other BYFG's. Fee charged by LVM.

March Grafting Seminar

Held at Landis Valley Museum (LVM), Lancaster. Hands-on training from experienced BYFG old-timers on grafting apple or pear varieties onto rootstocks. Grafting supplies and roots are for sale. Grafting scions, usually over a hundred varieties, are shared. Graft and take home several little trees to plant. Bring a bag lunch, visit, learn and share your skills with other BYFG's. No charge for subscribers.

August Summer Tour

Tour the backyard orchard of another BYFG. Swap ideas and budwood. Practice summer bud and chip grafting with hands-on demonstrations. Picnic and share your early season fruit harvest with other BYFG's. No charge for subscribers.

September Pawpaw Tours

Join our carpool caravans to see and taste native Lancaster County pawpaws along the banks of the Susquehanna River and in the backyards of fellow BYFG's. Save the seeds and start your own pawpaw trees. Bring a bag lunch. No charge for subscribers.

October Harvest Days

The Landis Valley Museum Harvest Days draws thousands of folks to experience life on an 1800's Pennsylvania German farm. In the *Antique Apple Market* BYFG's display and sell their homegrown fruit and help the visitors sample and compare heirloom and modern apple varieties. Watch how apple butter and cider are made and join other harvest activities. LVM entrance fee charged.

October BYFG Tasting

Bring samples of your own harvest to share at the BYFG tasting table loaded with over a hundred varieties. Taste apples, pears, persimmons and pawpaws, as well as kiwis, grapes and exotic fruits. Compare flavors and plan which varieties you might graft and plant in your own backyard. No charge for subscribers.

Woodbank is an annual listing of hundreds of cultivars grown and swapped for home orchard enjoyment by Backyard Fruit Growers. Included are: apple, apricot, blackberry, blueberry, cherry, currant, fig, gooseberry, grape, jostaberry, kiwi, medlar, mulberry, nectarine, pawpaw, peach, pear, plum, persimmon, quince, raspberry, strawberry and more!